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TO THE

KING's MOST Excellent Majeſty.

THE

Humble Addreſs of divers of the Gentry, Merchants and others, Your Majeſties moſt Loyal and Dutiful Subjects, Inhabiting in *Boſton*, *Charleſtown* and Places adjacent, within Your Majeſties Territory and Dominion of *New-England*, in *America*.

In Moſt Humble manner Sheweth.

THAT many of us in our late Humble Addreſs, proſtrated our ſelves at Your Royal Feet, and ſhould with all Silence and Humility have waited Your Royal Will and Pleaſure, did not Your Majeſties Intereſt and our peace and ſafety at this day, more urgently enforce us to ſpread before Your Sacred Majeſty, the deplorable Eſtate and Condition of this Your Territory and Dominion. The late Revolution dividing the ſaid Territory into ten Parts or Colonies, *viz.*, *Pemaquid*, *Province of Main*, *New-Hampſhire*, *Maſſachuſets*, *Plymouth*, *Rhoad-Iland*, *King's Province*, *Connecticut*, *New York*, and *Eaſt* and *Weſt Jerſyes*, thereby much debilitating each other, and giving great advantages to our Enemies, the *French* and *Indians*; and many hundreds of Your Majeſties Subjects Murthered and Captivated: *Pemaquid*, all the Province of *Main*, ſave three Towns, and *Seemedeka* in the Colony of *New-York*, the Frontier Town of *Canada* and *Inlet* to *New-England*, being ſince deſtroyed: Some Depredations made upon *New-Hampſhire* and the *Maſſachuſets*, and all other the out-Towns in imminent danger, and Your Majeſties poor Subjects there in great Diſtreſſes and Fears, being expos'd to the Rapine and Cruelty of the Enemy, whenever attack by them.

That an Expediton was made by ſome of Your Majeſties Subjects in the *Maſſachuſets* Colony againſt the *French* at *Port-Royal*, who ſurrender'd themſelves upon Articles; but no care taken to preſerve the ſame for Your Majeſties ſervice, little Annoyance given to the Enemy by that, or any other Enterprize hitherto engag'd in.

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That an Agreement was made by [illegible] with [illegible] Your Majesties said Colonies, to make an Attempt upon [illegible] which End New-York and Connecticut Colonies were [illegible] of the English and the Nations of [illegible] 2000 [illegible] Colonies of the Massachusets and [illegible] were to [illegible] 32 Sail, and 2400 Souldiers and Marriners, which (without Your Royal Commission or Order) was accordingly done. But the Land [illegible] performance; and the Navy sent to Quebec [illegible] was frustrated, to the almost Ruine and Destruction [illegible] here, being set forth at a vast Expence, [illegible] will leave, even the Maintenance of Widows [illegible] arrears of at least 20000 l. Many of Your poor Subjects [illegible] the Enemy, and Dead by Diseases and Distempers, happening among them in the said Expedition.

That by Reason of the want of Government [illegible] by Your Authority, [illegible] visions and Strifes at New-York, about the Necessity [illegible] proceedings of the pretended Government there, are [illegible] that Your Subjects in that Colony have lately taken up Arms one against another, and some Blood is already spilt; which will further weaken Your Majesties poor Subjects, and greatly encourage the Enemy. [illegible] Return across us by Land, and Men of War from France by Sea [illegible] we have great Reason to fear: Whom to Resist, [illegible] want of Your Majesties Government [illegible] also of Arms and Ammunition to defend our selves, we [illegible] timely Incitated for.

DREAD SOVERAIGN,

We Your poor, Loyal, Distressed Subjects therefore humbly supplicate Your Royal favour to be Extended towards us, in Consideration [illegible] Lamentable Estate, and that You will be graciously pleased [illegible] us into Your immediate Care and Protection, and [illegible] Relief and Assistance as in Your Princely Wisdom [illegible] meet, to save us and ours, together with Your Majesties [illegible] their Fears from Forein Parts.

And your said Petitioners and Loyal Subjects, as in all [illegible] will ever Pray for Your Majesty's Long and Prosperous [illegible]

Thos. Grafort. Tho. Cooper. [illegible]
P. Bulkley. Richard [illegible] [illegible]
Dan. Wadsworth. Fr. Littlefield. [illegible]
Lewr. Hammond. John Hammond. [illegible] Dan. [illegible] Nat. Pope.
Nath. Dane. John Nelles. [illegible] Geo. Read. Edward Shippen.
Nath. Read. David Jaffrey. [illegible] Jo. Rawl. Edward Rhett.
John Cutler, Jun. Benj. Mumford. Tho. Howard. Peter Shannon.

[illegible] Clerk Privy

Charlestown New-England, November the 22d. 1690.

[illegible] your Caption by the *French*, soon came [illegible] we receiv'd the Reviving News of your [illegible], which we are desirous to believe is true, tho' [illegible] as to receive the Confirmation of under [illegible] Longing to wait for.

[illegible] wading in the Mire of the Old Rebellion, long looking for Deliverance, but (as yet) it comes not, and that which adds to our Misery, we are kept in so great a degree of Ignorance, (for want of certain Intelligence) of [illegible] that we have nothing to bear up our Spirits from [illegible] of our Reason upon the Justice of the Cause we [illegible] Justice of our Prince upon whom (under God) we depend. This hath subjected us to out-face many a Brunt, and to despise many Reproaches and Calumnies cast upon us by those, whose profession soars High so [illegible] had they well Learn'd the practick part thereof, would [illegible] we remain ignorant of our Affairs there, you [illegible] of Affairs here, which gives us some hopes that [illegible] that so necessary, and (by all good Subjects) [illegible] Government over this people, in such measure [illegible] Conduce to His service, and the prosperity of His Loyal Subjects [illegible] which a few Months longer, I fear (if God [illegible] us to almost utter Ruin. For since the *Port-Royal* [illegible] Contracted, and no service to the [illegible] to the Enemy considerable, was attain'd.) A [illegible] hath been undertaken of 32. Sail of [illegible], Seamen and Mariners, rais'd by the *Massachusetts* and [illegible] Colonies, who set sail from *Nantasket* the 9th. day of *August*, under [illegible] General in expectation of a Land Army to consist of 2000. Men, to be rais'd in *Connecticut*, *New-York* and the five Nations of the Western Indians, to advance for *Albany*, *Royal*, under Major General *Fitz-John Winthrop*. But the methods propos'd for forming the Land Army failing, (few of the Indians, of whom the Army were Principally to consist, appearing) after the Fleet was gone, the whole strength of the Enemy is suppos'd to be drawn down to *Quebeck* (for it's reported by Captain *Silvanus Davis*, as I hear (who was a Captive there, and now redeem'd) that they were neir 4000. strong)

ſo that after almoſt Nine weeks paſſage, Landing their Souldiers (of whom not above 1200. were in health or capacity to get on ſhore) and Slinging ſome ſhot into the Town, they were forced to make a diſhonourable Retreat, having ſlain in the Attempt, many wounded, leaving five Field pieces on ſhore in the Enemies hands (the Redemption of near a Score of Captives, in exchange for ſome *French* they took in their Voyage, being the greateſt good attain'd by this Expedition.) In their Return, they were ſo diſpers'd and endanger'd by Tempeſtuous weather, that no further Exploit could be perform'd. Many hundreds ſick and dead of the ſmall Pox, Feavers and Flixes; one Veſſel caſt away and about 12 men drowned, the whole Fleet not yet return'd. The charge of this Expedition is very great; ſome obſerving men judg, that this Colony cannot be leſs in Arrears than 50000*l.* 'Tis moſt evident that the hand of God hath been againſt them in this and almoſt all other their Undertakings, which I fear is too too little taken Notice of. And now, what ſhall we do? The Flower of the Country was drawn off in this deſign, very many of whom are dead and ſick, all men Diſcourag'd, the Enemy Encourag'd and Enrag'd, from whom we may reaſonably expect Aſſaults as ſoon as the ſeaſon will permit, beſides Ships of War upon our Coaſt in the Spring: To Cry, Help an King! is a Crime almoſt unpardonable, except it be for our old Charter Government. 'Beſides, 'what may His Majeſty ſay? Why you cannot have any need of my help, who 'have Boaſted of your being Able to make me Emperour of *America*, You found 'no need of my Orders or Aſſiſtance to Attack the King of *France*'s Terri-'tories; You need no ſettlement of Government by Charter, or otherwiſe from 'Me, who can take it up of your ſelves, and proceed to Election without, yea, 'contrary to my Orders? *&c.*

Oh miſerable deluded people! We have provoked God, who alone can ſave us; and our King, who under God, can only be our Intrumental Saviour, I fear may be provok'd to leave us helpleſs and ſuccourleſs, if God over-rule not wonderfully to prevent it. But here are many good Chriſtian Loyal Subjects, who are long looking, waiting and praying that God will ſo incline the King's heart towards us, as not to leave us to Ruin one another, for want of a Settlement of ſuch methods of Government over us by His Royal Authority, as ſhall moſt Conduce to His ſervice and our good, nor leave us to become a Prey to Antichriſtian and Pagan Enemies.

To which end an Addreſs is now drawn to be ſent by this Veſſel in the Name of ſome Gentlemen, Merchants and others, wherein the deplorable Condition of the Country is ſpread before Him, and His Compaſſion and Protection crav'd, (a Copy whereof I here incloſe'd) and doubt not of your readineſs to do your part for the promoting the ſame.

The eyes of the people generally begin to be open'd, ſo as, I queſtion not, but

but the King's Government will be very acceptable to moſt, who yet, through Ignorance of Law, and how our Affairs rule at home, dare not ſpeak out: Beſides, ſome Government here muſt be, and a bad one, yea, a Uſurped one (ſay they) is better then none.

Oh how welcome would a true Information of things be to us, and a word or two of ſome Advice, how to Govern our ſelves under our great Temptations and Confuſions till His Majeſty hath determin'd His Royal Pleaſure concerning us.

On *October* the 17th. laſt *Mr. Joſ. Lynde* and *Mr. Sam. Hayman*, both of our Town, Acoſted me with a Paper, which they call'd an Order from their General Court, the Copy whereof pleaſe to take as follows.

February *the* 18*th.* 1690. *At the General Court of the* Maſſachuſets *Colonie in* Charleſtown.

It is Order'd by this Court that Capt. *Laur. Hammon* deliver to the Order of the County-Court for *Middle.* the Records of that County (that is to ſay) All Books and Files by him formerly Receiv'd from Mr. *Danforth* ſomtime Recorder of that County: As alſo all other Books of Record and Files belonging unto the ſaid County in his Cuſtody.

Copy Ex. *Iſa. Addington* Secre.

At a County Court held at Cambridge October *the* 8*th.* 1690.

Captain *Joſeph Lynde* and Captain *Samuel Hayman* are Requeſted and Impower'd by the Court to Receive the County Records as above, from Captain *Laur. Hammon.* As Atteſts *Tho. Danforth* Dep. Gover.

After a Peruſal of the ſaid Paper, I demanded a Copy of it, which they deni'd me, till I had given my Anſwer, which I deliver'd them in writing under my hand, in theſe following words. *viz.*

I am Commiſſion'd by the Crown of *England* to be Clerk of the Peace, General Quarter Seſſions, and Inferiour Court of Common-pleas within this County of *Middle.* and to take into my Cuſtody and Charge all publick Records and Writings belonging to the Courts of the ſaid County, and them faithfully to keep and ſecure: To which I have been likewiſe ſworn. In Obedience therefore to which Commiſſion, and in Conſcience of my Oath, I am bound to Keep and Secure the ſaid Records and Writings

tings (as much as in me lies) which have been ſo deliver'd unto me and hitherto by me faithfully kept, until Orders from the ſaid Crown ſhall otherwiſe diſpoſe of them, which when produced, I am ready to Obey.

Jo. H.

Since which I have heard no more from them. Orders from their General Court for Rates, have been at ſeveral times as fol. *viz.* 7½. 10. 2½. and now (as its ſaid) 20. I have not heard of any Diſtraint for Payment but in *Boſton*, and upon one Perſon in this Town, tho' I know divers refuſe to pay. What methods will now be taken to ſtill the Clamours of thoſe (or their Relations) who were in the late unhappy Expedition, are yet unknown. 'Tis certain, moſt of the Seamen were Impreſſed to that ſervice, and ſome of the Landmen, and moſt of them threatned, if they Liſted not Voluntarily they ſhould be preſt; ſo that partly thro' fear of Violence us'd with them, and partly great Expectations of ſucceſs and much plunder, which was trumpeted about in the Country by ſome buſy Agents; (and ſome Clergymen in *Boſton* and ſome other places Crying Victory, Victory over Antichriſt in their Pulpits *&c.*) the Poor people were enticed and drawn in to their own and the Countries (almoſt) utter Ruin. Thoſe who, in the time of their Preparations, did ſoberly diſcourſe their fears of the Imprudence (at leaſt) of this deſign, and the Ruin they had a proſpect of thereby, were call'd King *James*'s men, Friends to *French* and Papiſts, Enemies to the Country *&c.* for ſo doing. And now the event hath Evidenced thoſe fears not to have been groundleſs, they cenſure us (moſt uncharitably) as rejoycing at the General Calamity; which God knows, many of us mourn for, and Lament the Violent, Headſtrong and Exorbitant Courſes of thoſe who have driven on theſe and many other deſigns againſt Law and Reaſon. But I forbear;

'Tis time to conclude, which I ſhall do with Reciting one Paſſage more (which poſſibly may come to your knowledge from *Virginia*) of the ſtrange Actions of our preſent Rulers, which is this.

In *Auguſt* laſt, came a Gentleman from *Virginia* by Land, with divers Letters, eſpecially from the Lieut. Gover. *Nicholſon* there, to ſundry Gentlemen in *Boſton*, who continued in Town (as I Remember) about a fortnight, and being ready to Return, received of Divers Perſons Anſwers to the Letters ſent them, *&c.* But when ready to depart, his *Port-Mantua* wherein his Letters were, was ſeized by Order, and carri'd before the Council (his Perſon was likewiſe ſeized and for ſome time detain'd; the *Port-Mantua* being Lockt, and the Owner refuſing to deliver the Key, they broke it open, took out the Letters, and open'd them, Read them; detaining what Letters they pleas'd, and reſtoring what they pleas'd to the Meſſenger, who the next day was diſmiſt: Several Letters they did detain, directed to Gover. *Nicholſon*, and have made the Con-

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tents of mens private Letters matter of publick Diſcourſe; among which was a Letter written by the ſame Gentleman by me, (*John Cutler* Jun. ſigning with me) wherein I briefly recited the Heads of our late Sufferings, the Cauſes thereof, and the Conſequences; And incloſ'd a Liſt of the Names of moſt of the Officers and Ships gone for *Canada*. This was much diſcours'd of to our great Condemnation; tho' they never proceeded ſo much as to ſend for us. But the great pretence for opening theſe Letters was, A plot, Oh! a Horrid plot, *viz.* That it was Purpoſed and Reſolved between King *William*'s Gover. of *Virginia*, and the Malignant party, the Tory's in *Boſton*, *Charleſtown*, *&c.* that the ſaid Gover. (now in our weak Eſtate, when our ſtrength was gone) ſhould come and ſeize upon the Government here, and ſo make us all greater ſlaves than we are now (which truly would be no eaſy matter) if not to deliver us up to the *French*; And was not this ground ſufficient, and anſwerable to all the World, think you, to have broken open and detain'd at pleaſure, even the Letters of the King Himſelf under the like pretence? And altho' that would have been a Crime of a Higher degree; yet thus to treat the Kings Gover. is a Crime of the ſame kind, and is an Indignity offer'd to the Kings Perſon (in my weak Opinion) Thus Sir you have a Scheme of this matter, and a Confus'd Account of many other things, which your Wiſdom will (I hope) gather ſenſe ſo far out of, as to underſtand them by.

I fear I have tyr'd your Patience, and crave your Pardon, with my Humble ſervice I remain

Worthy Sir,

Your Obliged Humble Servant.

L. H.

The *French* at *Quebeck* have ſhewn great Humanity to their *Engliſh* Captives, (as the Captives redeem'd do acknowledge) ſeveral of whom they Ranſom'd out of the barbarous hands of the *Indians*, with their mony, that they might be generouſly accommodated.

The Inducements to this *Canada* Expedition (were as we may well conjecture) a belief of an eaſie Conqueſt, abundance of Treaſure to be gotten, and a Name and Fame in the world, (eſpecially at *White-hall*) for our great Valour and high Achievements, and our zeal againſt Antichriſt (all under a pretence of Neceſſity, for our own Preſervation; that if we did not carry the War thither, they would bring it into our own Bowels) All plauſible and encouraging Arguments to unthinking minds. But if it be enquir'd, by what Order, Commiſſion or Authority this Deſign was proſecuted? The anſwer muſt be, none

They Iſſued Orders for ſeizing of Shipping, Proviſions, Ammunition,

munition, Impressing of men, granted Commissions to Officers, Superiour and Inferiour, and all in Their Majesties Names, without any Order or Commission from Their Majesties, either to Authorize them to do [illegible] a Government in Fact or Name as they assume to [illegible] is, had they dealt plainly and aboveboard, according to [illegible] should have Issu'd out all their Warrants, and granted all [illegible] the Name of the People upon whom they demand [illegible] it is,) and not have us'd (or rather abus'd) Their Majesties [illegible] Fact) they deny Their Authority. Then might the people [illegible] some of whom, to my knowledge, have Confidently believ'd [illegible] been done, but by the King's Command. But I hope all [illegible] fusion and Darkness will soon be scatter'd by the clear Sun-shine of the King's Authority here speedily to be Setl'd; The hastening of which, for the preserving the Interest of the Crown, and the Refreshing the Spirits of all Their Majesties Loyal Subjects in these parts, is the longing desire, and hearty prayer of;

Worthy Sir,

Your Humble Servant,

L. H.

Licensed April *the* 28*th.* 1691.

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